

Meeting of the Morningstar Lake Association
May 25, 2020
11:00 AM vis Zoom and at lot 28 (Niewohner's Garage)

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order / Introductions /Attendance – 26 of the 37 lots were represented.
- 2) Approval of minutes of May 27, 2019 meeting – Motion to approve Linda Robinson Rutz, second Linda McCabe, approved unanimously.
- 3) Treasurer's Report - \$39,715.79 on hand as of May 25, 2020 of which \$3,700 is in reserve for the the future Summerwood Road project. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes (Attachment 1). Motion to accept and approve Treasurer's report was made by Jane Steinbach, seconded by Barry Handrup and approved unanimously by the lot representatives present and voting. Special Thank you to the Handrup family for donating the new Morningstar Lake sign!
- 4) Summerwood Lake Association Meetings – Minutes of the fall 2019 and spring 2020 Summerwood Board meetings were sent to all residents by Summerwood. The following topics were discussed by Jim Crawford, Jim Luethje and Russ Bayer, Morningstar Representatives to the Summerwood Lake Association:
 - a. Review of Summerwood Sept 2019 and March 2020 Meetings
 - i. Common area update:

Thanks to all involved in keeping the front area looking great. Dead trees have been removed and a few more will be removed soon. Landscaping will be refreshed. Please do not park on the grass area up front.
 - ii. Invasive Species:

The Summerwood Board has no authority over individual lakes, each lake must take its own action to ensure the lake is not infested. The following suggestions are applicable:

 - Each Lake should create its own policy regarding access to the lake with any watercraft.
 - Lakes should be proactive in preventing any foreign water coming into their lake. Canoes, kayaks, life vests, water toys are all carriers.
 - Ongoing education and awareness are always important
 - Any contractor coming into a lake should be completely inspected and forced to obey the rules of the lake.
 - www.neinvasives.com has good information
 - iii. Road Expenses:

Resurfacing is still a few years off.
 - iv. Front Gate:

The front gate is working for now. Thanks to Jim L for shortening the chain recently. The gate code will be changed on or around June 1, 2020. The gate code was stated, but will not be recorded in these minutes.

- b. Summerwood Annual Assessment - \$250.00
- c. Fireworks
 - The Summerwood fireworks show will be Saturday, July 4, 2020, the rain date is Sunday, July 5, 2020.
 - **Thank you to Tim Svoboda – Lot 4, Morningstar for agreeing to become licensed and running the show this year.**
- d. Collection area update
 - Thank you to Scott W for burning and cleaning up the collection area. The same process is planned for 2020, HOWEVER, please only grass and leaves in the grass and leaf area, NO STICKS.
 - Please put your collection items all the way to the back of the area.
 - Please follow the posted rules for the dimension of items that can be disposed.
- e. Security Cameras are up and functioning well
- f. Craig Beebe and Leroy Gerard have replaced the signs along Summerwood Road

5) Morningstar Business / Old Business / New Business:

- a. Water Quality / Fish Habitat: Tom Steinbach reported on our lake water quality and fish habitat. The fish population continues to improve.

Tom continues to work with the state to test the water quality of the lake. Both last May and September our phosphorus level was at .05 the target is being less than .15. Our lake is doing very well. This spring we will not be able to get a report as the department is closed because of COVID19. We have very clear water right now, fishing is good. A reminder about maintaining water quality:

Based on conversations with Aquatic Biologists, and other water quality experts here are some steps that are critical to stabilizing clarity and water quality:

- 1) Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the lake. There are enough trees around that the lakes get their own share of leaves, but we should not dump or blow leaves or clippings into the lake
- 2) Use no phosphorus fertilizers on our lawns
- 3) Use mulching mowers to reduce fertilizer requirements
- 4) Be aware of what drains from your lawns, driveways and homes.
- 5) Keep high concentration of waterfowl (geese) out of the lake.

Not doing these things will cause more nutrients to be added to the lake. More nutrients equal decreased water quality and increased blue-green algae blooms. Tom previously

reported that the excrement from one goose for one season is the equivalent of the phosphorus from three acres of fertilized lawn.

- b. We have had a few recent incidents where people from other lakes, or at least not residents of our lake have been found fishing on the lake. After discussion on how to control this the following motion was made to adopt this rule:

Only lot owners, their families and their guests may fish on Morningstar lake, and only on the lot owner's property or lot owner's watercraft. Moved by Linda Rutz and seconded by Linda McCabe. Approved unanimously by the lot representatives present and voting.

- c. Beavers: The beavers are knocking down trees along the stream and on the island. After discussion this moved to the board to take action. [Following the lake meeting the board met and Tom took on the task to follow up. Tom visited with the conservation officer, Tim Williams, who will be sending a nuisance beaver permit this week. This allows us to remove beavers causing problems at the lake. It does not allow all lake members to go after the beavers. We need anyone noticing beaver activity or sighting beavers to let Curt Carlson know or let one of the board members know.
- d. The Independence Day Celebration is on July 4, 2020. Once again, Sue Luethje has graciously agreed to organize. Thank you to all who have donated items for the giveaways in the past. Please bring in any items you can donate this year to Sue at Lot 32. The theme this year is Hawaiian Luau. Various activity organizers from last year have agreed to continue those duties this year. More information to follow on the activities that will occur and those that will be canceled.

Discussion on no wake time / closed lake time for the activities. **A motion was made to have no wake from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM with the kayak races from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on the 4th of July 2020.** Moved by Sue Luethje, seconded by Linda Rutz. Approved unanimously by the lot representatives present and voting.

Sue has done a great job organizing this event for many years. We are looking for someone to fill that role after this year. Please let us know if you would like to take on this very important role for our lake.

- e. Lake Rules:

- 1) The speed boat dimensions currently in the lake rules for inboard speed boats are no longer available on the market. Long discussion on the size of boats available, lake water level and how to minimize wakes along the residential side of the lake.

A motion was made to change the speed boat dimensions in our rules to not exceed 19 feet long and not to exceed 225 horsepower for inboard and not to exceed 19 feet long and not to exceed 115 horsepower for outboard. The Morningstar Board will evaluate if these dimensions are not available in the market, and if they need to be increased the Board will bring it back to all members. This was moved by Linda Rutz and seconded by Linda McCabe. Approved unanimously by the lot representatives present and voting. Please consider finding the smallest boat and smallest horsepower available.

One guideline that was established for this year is having all boats pulling skiers, wake boards, tubes etc. must drive in a straight line (no boat swerving) from lot 16 through lot 28. All lot owners are being asked to take the personal responsibility to ensure they and their guests follow this guideline to assist in protecting the shoreline of our neighbors along the south channel.

- 2) Maximum length of tow ropes is 60'. Boats and personal watercraft shall not follow closer than 200'.
 - 3) All golf carts or similar vehicles must be labeled
 - 4) The speed limit is 15 mph on Morningstar Road
 - 5) A suggestion was made to place speed limit signs on the lake for all watercraft, speedboats, jet skis and pontoon boats.
 - 6) A maximum of 3 ski boats or other speeding boats, over 5-mph, are allowed on the lake at one time. Ski boats have priority over personal watercraft , i.e. if a 3rd boat goes out the PWC must come off.
- f. Please complete the registration form for your boat (if you have not already done so) and send in with your dues. Only one form is needed per boat, and you only need to redo if you have a new boat. (Attachment 2)
- g. The 2020 Boating Guide is available at <http://digital.outdoornebraska.gov/i/1186614-2020-boating-guide-web/0?m4=> All state of Nebraska boating rules apply to our lake.
- h. Maintaining the tree area along the North Shore: Jim Luethje organized a day to clean up the trees planted as part of the dredging project. He will let everyone know when that day will be and have the supplies in place.
- i. Road Maintenance on Morningstar – Curt Carlson has continued to maintain the roads over the years and is willing to do so in the future. Compensations for costs of equipment and supplies plus effort will be authorized by the board.
- Dan will talk to the lot owners to clear the roads in front of their properties for emergency vehicle clearance. In 2006 the Clarks Volunteer Fire Department indicated that trees and shrubs must not encroach on the exist road from the side and cannot be lower than 14 feet overhead.
- j. Lights on the sign - Curt suggested lights be placed on the Morningstar Sign. The board will authorize the appropriate expense.
- k. Annual Morningstar Dinner: Pleasant's will be hosting the Lake adult supper this summer if the COVID19 virus allows. More details to follow.
- l. Annual Morningstar Dues Assessment – Summerwood set the dues per lot at \$250.00 for 2020. The Morningstar Board of Directors met on May 25, 2020, after the lake annual meeting, and set the Morningstar dues at \$250.00 per lot. The total assessment per lot for 2020 is **\$500.00**. Please make payable to Morningstar Lake Association and mail to:

Jane Steinbach
310 Laramie Trail

Lincoln, NE 68521

or deliver to Cabin 25.

8) Election of Directors to Summerwood and Morningstar Board.

- a. Jim Crawford, in a motion made by Bob Herbig and seconded by Linda Rutz, was nominated to be the Member Representative from Morningstar Lake on the Summerwood Board for the term September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023. No other nominations were made. Approved unanimously by the lot representatives present and voting.
- b. In a motion made by Jim Luethje and seconded by Linda Rutz the following slate of Directors was moved for election:

Jim Lovegrove and Barry Handrup - Morningstar Board with terms expiring in 2023.

Approved unanimously by the lot representatives present and voting.

The directors are:

Bob Herbig	-	2021	Brianne Bayer	-	2021
Tom Steinbach	-	2022	Dan Pleasant	-	2022
Barry Handrup	-	2023	Jim Lovegrove	-	2023

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

After the meeting the Morningstar Board met (Bob H, Tom S, Dan P, Barry H, Jim L.)

The following actions were taken:

- Members of the board will research the dimensions / engine sizes approved during the meeting to ensure they are available
- Three boat limit sign / speed limit sign for the lake – Russ will look at signs / pricing.
- Set Morningstar assessment to \$250.00 per lot. This combined with the Summerwood Assessment brings the total due from each lot to \$500.00. (Unanimously approved by the board)
- Officers for the next year were elected unanimously:

President - Dan Pleasant
Vice President – Barry Handrup
Treasurer – Jane Steinbach
Secretary - Russ Bayer

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Bayer

Russ Bayer
Secretary

Attachment 1

Morningstar Lake Association Treasurer Report

Combined Checking & Savings Accounts:

Beginning Balance	37,123.13
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Receipts:

2019 Dues	18,500.00
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Interest on savings account	82.42
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Total Receipts:	18,582.42
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Expenses:

Southern Power District	843.83
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Summerwood Dues (\$250.00 X 37 lots)	9,250.00
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Nebraska Lakes Management - lake survey	1,310.00
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Gravel and box scraping road	862.68
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General liability insurance	1,590.97
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Directors & Officers liability insurance	990.00
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Nebraska Lake Association - 2020	125.00
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Merrick County Treasurer (real estate taxes)	103.00
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UNL Water Science Lab	88.00
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Gravel for shared road with Heron Point	241.28
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Nebraska Lake Management - fish	585.00
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Total Expenses:	15,989.76
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Grand total of checking and savings	39,715.79
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**Balance in Future Summerwood Road Maintenance is \$3,700.00

Attachment 2

Morningstar Boat Registration:

Please fill in & return to a board of director.

Name of cabin/boat owner: _____

Cabin (lot) number: _____

Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

NE registration number: _____

Boat VIN number: _____

Length of boat: _____

Inboard _____ Outboard _____ Jet _____

Horsepower Rating: _____

Owner signature(s): _____

Date: _____